

Summary of Remarks to the Legislative Task Force

From the Perspective of the UW Comprehensive Institutions

May 9, 2012

I. Credit Transfers & Articulation Agreements

- How the articulation and the transfer of credits between UW institutions and between UW institutions and Wisconsin technical colleges could be improved
 - Implement a strategy that allows for local and regional arrangements, and that ensures that students know beforehand which courses transfer and what they transfer into
 - This approach permits local institutions to work together to ensure that course requisites and curricular goals are met
 - This approach is preferred over a 'top down' model or the implementation of a 'unified curriculum' by recognizing and addressing local factors
 - This approach creates the best opportunity for student success

II. Restructuring

- Restructure the UW System and, if so, make recommendations as to a new governance structure
 - Recognize the great value of shared governance
 - Shared governance is perhaps complex, but, it is a very valuable structure used on each Institution within the UW System
 - Shared governance allows for shared input and exchange of ideas from all constituents on all levels of governance (for example, it establishes a formal mechanism for meaningful dialogue and interaction among students, academic staff, and administration)
 - Shared governance also allows for greater interaction at the System level for important initiatives that extend across the UW Institutions (such as, for example, the Office of Professional and Instructional Development)
 - Shared governance provides a structure for the dissemination and coordination of programs or the sharing or exchanging of ideas relevant to the UW Institutions across the State (such as, for example, the interaction among the 'Faculty Representatives' and the UW System, including the Board of Regents)
 - Shared governance allows for regional representation or smaller campus representation
 - Shared governance, through the body of the 'Faculty Representatives,' was, in fact, the vehicle through which this presentation at the Legislative Task Force was coordinated

III. Flexibilities, Compensation, & 'Other'

- Whether tuition flexibility can be extended to the UW System while ensuring access and affordability and what role the Legislature should have in establishing tuition rates
 - How compensation plans for UW System employees should be determined in future biennia
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- Need tuition flexibility to keep the highest quality faculty/staff in the classroom
 - Allow for local flexibility in all areas: performance, merit, promotions, etc
 - Restore competitive compensation to allow for the retention of dedicated and caliber faculty (for example, many of the UW Institutions are losing their faculty to neighboring States, like MN)
 - Prevent the ongoing and serious loss of faculty (at times multiple faculty members in particular programs) which, in turn, creates great challenges in providing students the highest quality major or minor
 - Prevent the correlated impact on students and programs due to the loss of faculty, such as the loss of experience in the development and running of programs, in mentoring and advising students, in institutional and programmatic knowledge and history, and, overall, in leadership
 - Address the problem of faculty currently 'covering' or 'extending their duties' in their programs (due to the loss of faculty and the lack of replacement tenure hires or hiring 'freezes,' etc) but, in the process, increasing their workload in to the point where they 'stretch themselves too thin' and, as a result, are unable to perform the additional work to the appropriate high level or 'burn out' or seek alternative work environments
 - Keep the 'best professors' in the classrooms in the UW Institutions; prevent having them lured away
 - Prevent the rumor mill of Wisconsin no longer being a place for new faculty to come to; prevent the current trends of lower—at times dramatically lower—applications for faculty positions at UW Institutions; prevent UW Institutions from no longer having the opportunity to pick to top ranked faculty candidates
 - Ensure previous high standards of student access: students do not benefit from faculty having to teach larger class sizes; students do not benefit from not having enough sections of a class open for them to graduate in a timely manner (or from being forced to consider alternatives, such as taking courses at neighboring non UW Institutions)

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